

**To:** Hiatt, Gerald[Hiatt.Gerald@epa.gov]  
**From:** Black, Ned  
**Sent:** Sat 8/15/2015 6:04:34 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Summary/News: Environmental Unit call this morning

Hi Gerry,

Sorry I missed the call, but maybe that's why it was productive. I plan to be on the Sunday call.

ned

ned black, ph.d.

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Please be advised I currently have limited access to email when I am not in the office (e.g., on travel), therefore please be patient with any communication delays.

**From:** Hiatt, Gerald  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 11:01 AM  
**To:** Allen, HarryL; Manzanilla, Enrique; Tenley, Clancy; Montgomery, Michael; Strauss, Alexis; Keener, Bill  
**Cc:** Black, Ned; Guria, Peter  
**Subject:** Summary/News: Environmental Unit call this morning

Please forward to anyone else interested.

Following our call this morning with OEM and OSWER, I joined the daily EU call - it was especially productive and informative:

1. R6, R8 and R9 reiterated the agreement that sampling results for both water and sediments will be evaluated as follows:

Surface water: (1) compare to pre-incident or background; if exceeded or none available then (2) compare to recreational screening levels (RSLs). However there may be private conversations with local/state/tribal entities concerning comparisons to other relevant screening levels (including MCLs).

Sediments: same as surface water.

Private wells or finished water from purveyors: compare to MCLs (lower of fed or state).

2. Water purveyor for the city of Durango has opened their Animas River intakes. This was their decision (not R8's) and based on R8's statement that the Animas had returned to pre-incident conditions (i.e., not based on comparisons of river water to either MCLs or screening levels).

3. Animas River in CO has been opened for recreational use (approved by R8) again based on R8's conclusion that the Animas had returned to pre-incident conditions.

4. Both R6 and R8 are performing limited testing of private wells potentially impacted by river water - results evaluated versus MCLs, but with the understanding that some metals (e.g., arsenic, lead, manganese) may naturally be present at concentrations exceeding MCLs.

5. State of New Mexico has removed its advisory against use of private wells in the affected area.

5. R6 (and R8?) expects to perform limited testing of finished water from selected (how?) water purveyors - results to be evaluated versus MCLs.

6. R8 sediments: all sediment samples tested to date meet either background (R8 actually had some background data) or, if exceed background, recreational RSLs.

7. R6 sediments: all sediment samples tested to date meet recreational RSLs. R6 is working with agencies in NM to establish background levels for metals in sediments where possible.

FYI, ORD (Tom Burke?) reviewed and approved of the recreational RSLs.

There will be another EU call tomorrow.

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